

Driver Training Reform

Fact sheet – August 2024

The State Government is introducing legislation to strengthen standards in the driver training industry and safeguard learner drivers against inappropriate and criminal behaviour.

The reforms are in response to a Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) review into the industry which was supported by the findings of an investigation by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

The State Government is committed to protecting people's safety and welfare, particularly young people and vulnerable South Australians, and to ensure drivers are properly trained and assessed.

The changes will create a safer environment for learners and drivers, while addressing the corruption, misconduct and standards across the driver training industry.

This will lead to more skilled, safer and competent motorists on our roads, improving safety for everyone.

The proposed changes are:

The State Government will resume delivery of practical driving tests for class C (car) driver's licences. Learner drivers will book a practical driving test with a Government Examiner, which

will be a set fee. Learner drivers can continue to undertake driver training with a licensed Motor Driving Instructor and/or a Qualified Supervising Driver.

Driver training and assessment for heavy vehicles will continue to be delivered by private operators, however there may be elements of the reform that also apply to this sector.

Practical driving test with a Government Examiner

Learner drivers will need to pass the new practical driving test with a Government Examiner to obtain their provisional (P1) licence or to transfer their overseas licence.

Driver training and assessment material for a class C driver's licence will be reviewed and a new training and assessment package will be developed to ensure drivers are ready to take the new practical driving test.

The new training material will be a resource for all learner drivers and their Motor Driving Instructors or Qualified Supervising Drivers.

The new package will include elements from the existing Competency Based Training and Assessment (CBT&A) and Vehicle on Road Test (VORT) methods and industry best practice.



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Under this model, the CBT&A method that currently exists would no longer be available.

Mandatory cameras and GPS will be required in all driver training vehicles

Cameras with GPS tracking will be required to operate in a vehicle when training is being delivered by a Motor Driving Instructor and during all practical driving tests (including heavy vehicle classes). Requiring an in-vehicle camera will enable monitoring of the standard of training delivered and will be a deterrent to poor behaviour and criminal conduct, providing reassurance and protection for learner drivers.

New online booking and digital scoring systems

An online booking system will be introduced to enable learner drivers to book a practical driving test with a Government Examiner. A digital scoring system will also be introduced to enable Government Examiners to digitally score practical driving tests and issue digital certificates of competency.

New online register

The Department will publish an online register of licensed Motor Driving Instructors and heavy vehicle Authorised Examiners to help learner drivers make an informed decision about choosing an instructor. More information will be shared with learner drivers when available.

Strengthening industry standards

Industry standards of behaviour will be formalised into a new Code of Conduct to establish higher standards for Motor Driving Instructors.

The changes will ensure Motor Driving Instructors undertake a proficiency assessment as part of the application and renewal process. Requirements may include:

- minimum standards of conduct and behaviour, standards of driving instruction business practices such as written agreement of services, refund

rights and costs provided to customers, issuing of receipts, and complaints management

- camera use and data transfer requirements.

The South Australian Registrar of Motor Vehicles will have broader powers to sanction instructors who do the wrong thing and ensure compliance with the new requirements.

The purpose of these changes is to provide the community with greater confidence that industry members will provide high quality driver training and be transparent in their business practices.

Vehicle standards

Minimum standards for vehicles used for training and assessment will be introduced to help ensure a safe learning experience.

Next steps

Once legislation is passed, it is anticipated that there will be a two-year transition period to the new system. Over this time there will be engagement with the industry.

Authorised Examiners will also be able to continue testing during the two-year transition and apply, should they wish, for a Government Examiner role.

The Department will continue to work with industry to improve training and assessment, customer experience and to identify and deal with poor behaviour.

The Department will share information about progress of legislation and implementation work with the community on the dit.sa.gov.au website.

For more information contact dit.dtreform@sa.gov.au.